

# THE WORLD WATER QUALITY ALLIANCE 2022 CONFERENCE



CONVENED BY THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

SUPPORTED BY THE SWISS CONFEDERATION

Konstanz University of Applied Sciences (HTWG)

An online and onsite event

28 November 2022 – 30 November 2022

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W B  
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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra



WOMEN  
FOR WATER  
PARTNERSHIP

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the World Water Quality Alliance Conference 2022. The aim of the event is simple: To demonstrate that local communities are key to the overcoming of global water-based challenges. The World Water Quality Alliance, convened by the United Nations Environment Programme, has organised this event to promote local dialogue, engagement and exchange, to highlight how the data generated by the World Water Quality Assessment can be transformed into practical local action and how, as a result, local society can maintain a permanent dialogue with decision-makers at a supranational level.

Development cooperation experts, chief scientists and water experts are invited to actively observe, learn and engage with the Local Water Forums and the Youth Organisations who work with the WWQA. The Local Water Forums are composed of local politicians, businesspeople and researchers, but most importantly of all, ordinary citizens representing all genders, ethnic groups, low-income sectors and the full social reality of where they live, who have become engaged in the issue of water quality together with neighbourhood cultural actors capable of communicating the importance of water quality and stimulating an emotional response. They will be joined by Youth organisations who have recognised the need to not only become engaged but, more importantly, to initiate and lead actions that address issues that will directly affect the future of their generation and the future of their respective communities.

Over three days, in the town of Konstanz in Germany, the onsite and online event will discuss the results and achievements of the Local Water Fora and the initiatives undertaken by the WWQA Youth Platform. In the build-up to the UN Water Conference 2023, the opportunities to expand the work and influence of the Social Engagement and Youth movements of the WWQA will be explored and developed. The role of citizen science will be discussed. Above all, the conference will seek to establish permanent ties between the high-level strategist and the local stakeholder, between youth and society as a whole. It will promote and support the transformation of scientific knowledge into practical local actions, and it will enhance the role of the local community as the means of resolving one of the most important global challenges of our times, water quality.

Global solutions are in your hands. Join us in Konstanz and discover what you and your community can do.

[REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE HERE](#)

# THE WORLD WATER QUALITY ALLIANCE CONFERENCE 2022

CO-ORGANISED BY THE SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT AND YOUTH

WORKSTREAMS OF THE WWQA

## PROGRAMME

**Venue:**

**Hochschule Konstanz (University of Applied Sciences) Building P**

**Alfred-Wachtel-Straße 8**

**78462 Konstanz**

**Date: 28 November 2022 – 30 November 2022**

### **MONDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2022**

**08.30-09.00: ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION**

**LOBBY – BUILDING P (SEE CAMPUS PLAN BELOW)**

**0900-0945 WELCOME TO KONSTANZ AND INTRODUCTION TO THE WWQA**

SABINE REIN, PRESIDENT OF KONSTANZ UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

ZENO DANNER, CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF KONSTANZ

SIMON ZBINDEN – HEAD OF GPW OF THE SDC (SWITZERLAND)

HARTWIG KREMER - UNEP

RICHARD ELELMAN - ACTING COORDINATOR OF THE WWQA

The World Water Quality Alliance (WWQA) was created in 2018 and represents a voluntary and flexible global multi-stakeholders network that advocates the central role of freshwater quality in achieving prosperity and sustainability; it explores and communicates water quality risks by means of the World Water Quality Assessment (WWQ-A) in global regional, national and local contexts with the aim of pointing towards solutions for maintaining and restoring ecosystem and human health and well-being, with an aim to serve countries throughout the lifetime of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and beyond. The WWQA aims to provide a participatory platform for water quality assessments and the co-design of tailored and demand-driven services.

**ROOM P001/ONLINE**

## **0945-10.30: INTRODUCTION TO THE SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT PLATFORM AND YOUTH WORKSTREAM OF THE WWQA**

### **PRESENTERS:**

LESHA WITMER – LEADER OF THE SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT PLATFORM WORKSTREAM

INÊS BREDA AND NOÉMIE PLUMMIER – LEADERS OF THE YOUTH WORKSTREAM

The global environmental situation and the issue of water quality in particular demands a transformational change in which the needs and opinions, the capabilities and the experience, can be gauged and used to address the challenges identified by a correct appreciation of the situation. By working through local entities and by involving all stakeholders, young and old, all genders, local councillors, scientists, businesspeople, artists, and ecologists, both those experienced and those who to date have had no access to information concerning the realities of water, good governance can be achieved. By creating a permanent dialogue between the scientist and the rest of society, by breaking down the apparently complex language of the specialist into accessible, comprehensible information, innovative technology can be better prepared to answer the real needs of situations in regions around the Globe. The Social Engagement Platform and Youth Workflow have been created to bridge the gap between the water sector and society in general, between the supranational strategy and regional or local policy, between the decision maker and the end-user. The workstreams are capable of promoting a far more transparent and beneficial multi-stakeholder process, capable of engendering mutual trust, broader awareness and an enhanced capacity for collaboration between all sectors and social actors.

**ROOM P001/ONLINE**

## **10.30-13-15: SHARING EXPERIENCE OF LOCAL WATER FORUM USE CASES, INITIAL RESULTS, EXPERIENCES AND FEEDBACK**

MODERATED BY RICHARD BERMAN – UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

AISHA NANKANJA (RWICA, UGANDA), DANIELA MARIN (CORAL CONSERVATION, COSTA RICA)

BRANDON FRANCIS OKOTH (KIBERA, KENYA), CARLA TORANZO (PUEBLO NUEVO, PERU)

‘What does one do with the data collated and examined by the more technical work streams of the WWQA?’ The Social Engagement Platform through the creation of Local Water Forums provides a socio-political answer to that question. It transforms the work of the Alliance into the basis for relevant policy co-creation, and the same data into a source of unrivalled information with which to provide the population, with a clear objective picture of water-based issues. It is capable of addressing the needs of a broad social community or those of a specific group, be they youth, gender, SMEs, or often ignored small rural communities.

Sustainable inter-sectoral collaboration, the fostering of local solutions for global issues, the transformation of knowledge into action and the translation of complex data into simple accessible knowledge will not only enlighten the hitherto disinterested citizen but will constitute an important step towards enabling stakeholders of being more capable of mitigating the effects of the mistakes of the past. Furthermore, Local Water Forums create highly motivated citizen scientists willing to undertake long-term observation and monitoring within their local

communities whilst being fully involved in the transition of such data into practical public measures.

**(THERE WILL BE A COFFEE BREAK BETWEEN 11.30-12.00 IN THE LOBBY)**

**ROOM P001/ONLINE**

**13.15-14.15: LUNCH**

**14.15-16.00: PARALLEL WORKING SESSIONS**

**A) BREAKOUT MEETING OF LOCAL WATER FORUM REPRESENTATIVES**

MODERATED BY LESHA WITMER - LEADER OF THE SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT PLATFORM WORKSTREAM AND MARIET VERHOEF – WFWP

All Representatives of the Local Water Fora, external observers and members of the WWQA team will meet in person for the first time and Local Water Fora will have the opportunity to present their current work and set-up. A structure will be created for permanent dialogue between all attending stakeholders. A two-year plan designed to attract and recruit new LWF and, just as importantly, to establish the WWQA as vital means of communication, data exchange and action initiation at the local level will be drawn up in accordance with the objectives of the UN Water Conference 2023.

**LOCAL WATER FORUM BREAKOUT ROOM/ONLINE**

**B) BREAKOUT MEETING OF YOUTH ORGANISATIONS**

MODERATED BY INÊS BREDA AND NOÉMIE PLUMMIER LEADERS OF THE YOUTH WORKSTREAM

Representatives of the engaged Youth organizations, external observers and members of the WWQA team will meet in person for the first time. A two-year plan designed to fully launch the Youth-oriented activities of the WWQA, to ensure that Youth can both initiate and lead water-quality activities round the World will be created. Emphasis will be placed on the capacity of the Youth workflow to support UNITAC work- tools, the testing of the digital accelerator platform for community level work, the roles and opportunities in the 2023 Water Year and in its run up to the Conference and the WWQ-Assessment.

**YOUTH BREAKOUT ROOM/ONLINE**

**16.00-16.30: COFFEE BREAK AND NETWORKING**

**LOBBY**

**16.30-17.30 CONCLUSIONS OF THE FIRST DAY**

PRESENTED BY LESHA WITMER, INÊS BREDA AND NOÉMIE PLUMMIER

**ROOM P001/ONLINE**



**TUESDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2022**

**09.00-10.30: THE ROLE OF CITIZEN SCIENCE AND ENGAGEMENT**

BERND GAWLIK – EUROPEAN COMMISSION

CATERINA CACCIATORI – EUROPEAN COMMISSION

AMANDA LOEFFEN – HUMANRIGHT2WATER

MOHAMED JUANAH - SIERRA LEONE WATER AGENCY

STEVEN LOISELLE - EARTHWATCH

This will be an introduction to the GEMS OF WATER approach and an interactive, open discussion on the definition and value of citizen science. An aspect to be emphasised will be the inclusion of all genders, low-income groups, all age groups and ethnic minorities in the work of both the Local Water Forums and Youth Workflow.

**ROOM P001/ONLINE**

**10.30-11.00: COFFEE BREAK AND NETWORKING**

**LOBBY**

## **11.00-13.15: THE WORLD WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT – THE USER CENTRIC APPROACH**

MODERATED BY ANHAM SALYANI - UNEP

ILONA BARLUND - HELMHOLTZ CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH-UFZ

CHRISTIAN SCHMIDT - HELMHOLTZ CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH-UFZ

The results of the World Water Quality Assessment must be accessible to all members of the Quintuple Helix (local members of the five social sectors – public, private, research, culture and citizens) if the uptake of data and its translation into tangible action is to be successful. The WORLD WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT is placing much importance on a user-centric approach. The creation of a digital platform to disseminate the work and findings of the WORLD WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT will connect the traditional *information value chain* i.e., normative data, analysis, information, and sharing to maintain water quality under review, together with social engagement where stakeholders are enabled to review data, complement them with own knowledge assets and foster uptake for solutions. This is a *solutions value chain*, where evidence-based advocacy can incubate local solutions to the three planetary crises, not least of which is human health. The Assessment strives to connect with UN Country Teams and people at scales where transformation is feasible. Participants will have the opportunity to comment, discuss and criticize the presented format, so that the WWQA can produce a communications tool of true value to local communities and youth. This session will therefore also constitute a critical review where those attending are working towards a proof of concept for the presentation of the Assessment.

**ROOM P001/ONLINE**

## **13.15-14.15: LUNCH**

## **14.15-16.30: THE IMPORTANCE OF GENDER, LOW-INCOME, AGE AND ETHNIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT PLATFORM AND YOUTH WORKSTREAMS**

MODERATED BY WANJIKU GITHITU NJUGUNA - UNEP

OPENING SPEAKER - HADEEL FAIDI (PALESTINE)

AISHA NANKANJA (RWICA, UGANDA), DANIELA MARIN (CORAL CONSERVATION, COSTA RICA)

BRANDON FRANCIS OKOTH (KIBERA, KENYA), CARLA TORANZO (PUEBLO NUEVO, PERU), ODWA NTSIKA MTEMBU (JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA) KENNETH ALFARO ALVARADO (SARCHÍ, COSTA RICA)

The inclusion of all genders, low-income groups, all age groups, ethnic minorities and migrants in the work of both Local Water Forums and the Youth Workstream is essential if one seeks to truly engage all society in the issue of water quality at both a local and world-wide scale. Such social sectors must be approached and shown that their opinion and their actions are as important as any other stakeholder. The WWQA is intrinsically inclusive. Materials, data and actions must prove flexible enough to enable the full involvement of all cultures and social sectors, considering their needs, their cultural idiosyncrasies and both their collective and

individual ambitions. This session will discuss why this is important, how it can be achieved and what steps need to be taken to further enhance the engagement of all.

**ROOM P001/ONLINE**

**16.30-17.00: COFFEE BREAK AND NETWORKING**

**LOBBY**

**17.00-18.00 CONCLUSIONS OF THE SECOND DAY**

**FEEDBACK ROUNDTABLE FROM OBSERVERS AND RESPONSES FROM LWFS AND YOUTH FOLLOWED BY CONCLUSIONS**

PRESENTED BY JIAN-HUA MENG - KONSTANZ UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES (HTWG)

**ROOM P001/ONLINE**



**WEDNESDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2022**

**09.00-09.30: INTRODUCTION TO THE OBJECTIVES OF DAY THREE**

RICHARD ELELMAN - ACTING COORDINATOR OF THE WWQA

The third day will be dedicated to the open discussion of the objectives of both the Social Engagement and the Youth Workstreams. Furthermore, the relationship of these two initiatives with the other more technical workstreams will be assessed. The objective is to establish a clear

roadmap for the ensuing two years, whilst ensuring greater inter-workflow cooperation, a far more important collaboration on the part of the WWQA not only with UN agencies but also an increased number of third-party organisations and finally, the establishing of the WWQA as an important instrument for UN Water, the achievement of SDG6.3 and the improvement of water quality in local communities around the World.

## **MAIN ROOM/ONLINE**

### **09.30 -14.00 PARALLEL WORKING SESSIONS**

**(THERE WILL BE A COFFEE BREAK BETWEEN 11.30-12.00 IN THE LOBBY)**

**A) SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT PLATFORM REVISION OF WORK PLAN**

SESSION LED BY LESHA WITMER

**LOCAL WATER FORUM BREAKOUT ROOM/ONLINE**

**B) YOUTH WORKSTREAM REVISION OF WORK PLAN**

SESSION LED BY INÊS BREDA AND NOÉMIE PLUMMIER

**YOUTH BREAKOUT ROOM/ONLINE**

### **13.15-14.15: LUNCH**

### **14.15 -16.00 WORKSTREAMS INTERACTION AND COLLABORATION**

SESSION PRESENTED BY BERND GAWLIK – EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND RICHARD ELELMAN – ACTING COORDINATOR OF THE WWQA

As has been recognised, not only by numerous agencies of the United Nations, but also by such supranational entities as the European Union, the OECD, the World Bank and the World Economic Forum, the environmental challenges which the planet is facing can only be resolved by the uniting of diversified expertise. The chemist, the physicist, the biologist and the engineer must work with the sociologist, the political scientist and the anthropologist. They must all collaborate with the writer, the photographer, the decision-maker and above all, the citizen. The WWQA permits and indeed, actively promotes such a union. Therefore, it is essential that its different workstreams are capable of working cheek by jowl in a way that specific expertise from several workflows can be brought together, when required, to overcome specific challenges. This session will highlight how that interaction is coordinated and implemented.

## **ROOM P001/ONLINE**

### **16.00-16.30: COFFEE BREAK AND NETWORKING**

## 16.30-17.30 CONCLUSIONS

LESHA WITMER, JIAN-HUA MENG, WANJIKU GITHITU NJUGUNA AND ANHAM SALYANI

ROOM P001/ONLINE



## THURSDAY 1 DECEMBER 2022

### 09.00-12.00 WORLD WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT EDITORIAL BOARD AND WORKSTREAM PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS (CLOSED MEETING BY INVITATION ONLY)

WWQA COORDINATION TEAM, THE STRATEGIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE LEADERS OF THE WWQA WORKSTREAMS

ROOM TBC/LIMITED ONLINE

## WELCOME TO KONSTANZ

Many people haven't even heard of Konstanz (or Constance in English), the beautiful town in the South of Germany. Tucked in between the Swiss, Austrian and German spheres, you will find yourself in a fairy-tale setting, rich in history. It is a welcoming combination of flair, hearty traditional food and vibrant student life. With its enchanting medieval centre and sitting on the shore of Germany's biggest lake (Lake Constance, or Bodensee in German), it is the perfect location for our conference. When the weather is clear, one can enjoy stunning views of the Swiss and Austrian alps.

The World Water Quality Alliance Conference will be held at the University of Applied Sciences (HTWG), which is situated on the banks of the Rhine River, that runs through the lake. Because Konstanz is a small place, you will find most hotels, restaurants or shops within walking distance

of the University. However, Konstanz is a great place to ride a bike and there are also regular bus connections to take you across town.

Konstanz hosts a beautiful annual Christmas market along the length of the town's harbour and in the Market Square. Relax after a long day of meetings and visit it.



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Don't miss out on the beautiful Christmas Market in the Market Square and by the harbour.



© Dagmar Schwelle · MTK / Dagmar Schwelle

The University of Applied Sciences (HTWG) lies on the banks of the Rhine River. You can see the town's cathedral on the left and the Swiss Alps in the background.

### **OUR HOST: KONSTANZ UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES (HTWG)**

The HTWG Konstanz - University of Applied Sciences is a modern university that takes a practical, hands-on approach. It offers a broad range of study programmes, and students benefit from the interdisciplinary approach and focus on bridging theory and practice.

The HTWG Konstanz is a key player in the international scientific and business community in the Lake Constance region. They have partnerships with innovative companies and organisations

and pursue excellence in the areas of research and development, technology transfer and continuing education.

Their main objective is to provide top-level educational and career opportunities to talented and highly motivated individuals from diverse backgrounds. They place high value on advising students personally, supporting their individual development and providing them opportunities to gain international experience. Their overall goal is to contribute to the sustainable development of society.

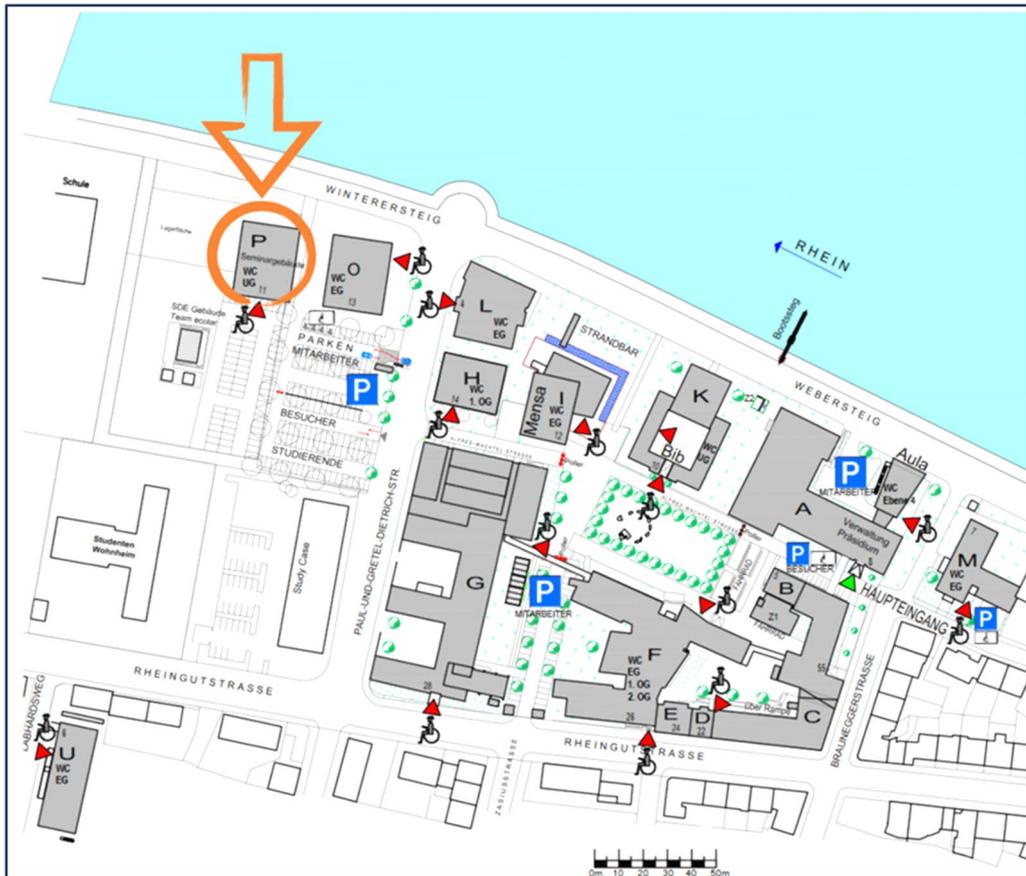
## **WOMEN FOR WATER PARTNERSHIP (WFWP)**

The Women for Water Partnership chairs the Stakeholder Engagement Platform. It is a network managed by women, for women's organisations working on water and sanitation-related issues in over 100 countries.

The network assists with knowledge exchange, research, vocational training and mentoring, advocacy and fundraising. Membership encompasses women at the grassroots level, academics and professionals. [www.womenforwater.org](http://www.womenforwater.org). Most of the work is done on a voluntary basis. The organisation connects SDGs 4, 5 and 6. Our most recent activities as a network include the Flash Mobs, connecting young female professionals and employers and the newly published report on "with women better results on water management". *Inter alia*, the WFWP is a member of the Call for Action to Accelerate Gender Equality in the Water Domain initiative (<https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/call-action-accelerate-gender-equality-water-domain>).

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

### **LOCATION**



The WWQA conference will be held in building P, which is located next to the river Rhine and offers parking on-site.

### ARRIVAL

The nearest international airport is Zurich (Switzerland). Trains run directly from Zurich Airport to Konstanz twice an hour and take approximately 50 minutes. From the train station to most accommodation and the conference venue is a scenic walk through the old town of no more than 15 minutes. Taxis and buses are available in front of the train station. Other international airports are Stuttgart, Basel and Munich.

Please note that it is winter and we encourage you to enjoy the town and the Christmas Market. Please bring warm clothing. Walking shoes and a light raincoat might be a good idea.

### COVID-19

Onsite attendees should be advised that they are responsible for ensuring that they comply with local restrictions regarding COVID-19. For example, on public transport in Germany, it is obligatory to wear a face mask. Please check whether there are any requirements regarding vaccinations or PCR tests between your point of departure and your arrival at a Swiss or German airport.

### PHOTOGRAPHY AND THE RECORDING OF SESSIONS

Upon arrival, onsite attendees will be asked for permission with regards to their appearing in photographs during the event. Online attendees will be asked for permission to record the

respective sessions. If permission is not given by an attendee, said attendee will be asked to disconnect.